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REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Occupation Troops in WITTENBERG

50X1-HUM

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Soviet Occupation Troops in WITTENBERG

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23 June 1949

1. The following observations were made in WITTENBERG (N 52/E 37) on 23 June 1949:

a. Taunentzien Kaserne: Motorized infantry unit of 800 to 900 men. About 200 troops received basic training at the kaserne yard. Replacements were said to have arrived recently. No heavy weapons were observed. The passenger cars (occupied by a Major General and two field officers) (occupied by field officers) were identified at the kaserne. About 50 trucks were parked at the kaserne yard.

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b. Flak Kaserne: Tank, artillery, engineer and signal units totaling 1,200 to 1,400 troops. Most of the observed troops were very young and some of them wore the Guards badge. Rocket launchers mounted on two trucks and one 120-mm mortar coupled to a truck were observed in the kaserne area.

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c. Baseler Kaserne: Tank unit of about 800 men, between 18 and 23 years of age. Numerous young officers were observed with the unit. Seven "T 34" tanks, two "Shchuka" tanks and one "SU 152" SP gun were seen in the kaserne area.

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d. Brueckenkopf Kaserne: Soviet Air Force unit and a Soviet Army unit which was reduced from 200 to about 50 men after 10 June

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1949. The soldiers of the latter unit wore black-bordered, red epaulets.

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e. Cantonment near the Flak Kaserne: Allegedly an ordnance and motor vehicle depot. About ten trucks one rocket launcher and three 122-mm guns were observed there.

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25 June 1949

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2. The kasernes of WITTENBERG were occupied as follows on 25 June 1949:

a. Beseler Kaserne: Small unit

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b. Flak Kaserne:

(1) Strong tank and antitank artillery units. The tank units had recently received about 200 recruits. More recruits who were expected to arrive were allegedly to be quartered in a former German barrage balloon depot, located southwest of the Flak Kaserne. About sixty "T 34" tanks, fifteen "JG" tanks and several medium antitank guns were sheltered in the kaserne.

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(2) Much training activity was observed in the two mentioned kasernes. An ammunition dump was said to be under construction in the area of the former "Arado" Plant. This area was surrounded by a fence and watchtowers were being erected. The area was guarded by guard personnel of about company strength. Incoming shipments arrived exclusively during the early morning hours or during the night.

3. a. Comment: The occupation of WITTENBERG by Soviet troops as of late June 1949 has remained virtually constant since May 1949. Only a tank unit from the Beseler Kaserne left (for practices to be held in the MARKENDORF-WERDLER area?). The ammunition dump in the former "Arado" Plant, WITTENBERG, has been known for a long time.

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b. Comment: Replacements were said to have also arrived in this kaserne.

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c. Comment: A tank unit with about 30 "T 34" tanks recently left the kaserne for an unknown destination.

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